

CAPSULE  
BUCKINGHAM

With so much of Baltimore County's historical resources having been lost in the wake of a tremendous surge of modern development it is surprising to find so much in the way of rural history surviving right on the city line along West Lake Avenue. One of these places in particular is Buckingham, a large Federal period house which once commanded a sizable tract of land.

The plan and construction of this house are typical of the period with a side hall and double parlors. The parlors and bedrooms above are heated by fireplaces served by interior end chimneys and are decorated with Federal mantelpieces. Buckingham is built of local stone and has been added onto with the same material twice. The first addition was a considerable enlargement which extended the building to the West. This addition was probably made not too long after original construction, or at least in the same era, as it employs identical materials. Both sections demonstrate a transitional technology with such items as nails which have machine cut shanks but hand struck heads.

The second addition was made in the 1930's when a two story addition was added to the east end. A very well done Classical Revival renovation took place which was sensitive to existing fabric.

A great deal can be learned about Federal period architecture from studying Buckingham and the changes which have occurred in the building since say a great deal about the continued viability of neo-classical design in our domestic architecture.

PRELIMINARY REPORT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA - 1721  
MAGI - 0317214304

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Buckingham

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1110 Lake Ave. (W.) (6107 Buckingham Manor Drive)

CITY, TOWN

Towson (Bare Hills) — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Ninth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

—DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

—OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

—PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

—BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED

—UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

—NO

**PRESENT USE**

—AGRICULTURE

—COMMERCIAL

—EDUCATIONAL

—ENTERTAINMENT

—GOVERNMENT

—INDUSTRIAL

—MILITARY

—MUSEUM

—PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—RELIGIOUS

—SCIENTIFIC

—TRANSPORTATION

—OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

David S. Thaler

Telephone #: 377-4461

STREET & NUMBER

1110 W. Lake Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: Plat Book 39

Folio #: 106

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>May, 1979</u>

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The name "Federal era" is applied to those years of American history between the end of the Revolution and the late 1820's and 1830's. It was a formative and exciting period distinct unto itself, for we were no longer a British colony and were only becoming a new nation. Architecture is reflective of the cultural changes of this period. From a stylistic point of view there were definitely new and distinct architectural plans that appeared during this time. It has been noticed in the Maryland region that among these several plans the "side hall and double parlor" arrangement was particularly popular in these years. Buckingham, thought to be a c. 1794 construction exhibits this plan with neo-classical decoration in its main block and the early addition on its west end. The east addition is the result of a sensitive 1930's renovation which may have replaced an early single story frame structure. (See attachment for discussion of a somewhat problematical c. 1905 photograph of an early painting identified as "Buckingham")

**Exterior:**

This central portion of the house speaks strongly of the Federal period as can be seen on the outside by its tall tripartite massing. It is a stone building two stories high with a finished attic. It is three bays wide and two long bays deep. The plan is the typical side hall and double parlor plan with each of the parlors being served by interior end chimneys on the west end of the house. A gable end roof caps the structure. A pair of centralized pedimented dormers vent each side of the roof. The fenestration of the north and south facades is regular on the first two stories consisting of 6/6 sash. Bubbled glass is occasionally seen. There are two symmetrically placed basement windows on the north side and a single centrally placed window on the south.

The elaborate pedimented doorway of the south facade is part of the 1930's renovation.

At an early point in its history the central block was extended to the West by a stone addition of like construction that nearly doubled the size of the house. Both sections employ random size fieldstones that are coursed. Although not as tall as the original portion, the west wing is a full two stories and while it is also three bays wide, it is of shorter depth. The wing butts up against the main block and is absent of its own east wall. The 1930's blueprints and structural evidence shows that the present entrance in the westernmost bay of the south

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

facade was once in the east bay of the wing.

The west wing has a single interior end chimney with a brick cap on its west end. The gable end roof has pedimented dormers, however, they are of a slightly different motif than the main block. The north dormers of the main block and the south dormers of the west wing match but the south dormers of the main section have a simple block bisecting the lower portion of the pediment.

There are tall 9/6 sash in the lower level of the west wing and 6/6 above. Some of these have panes of wavy and bubbled glass. Like the older section, the west wing windows are surrounded by solid raised panel shutters that vary in proportions. Six-light casement windows help light the attic on the west end.

The east end of the main block is mostly concealed by a 1930's two story stone addition that is quite compatible with the original design. If the painting shown in the 1905 newspaper article is indeed of this house, the single story wing that is seen in the picture would have stood on this end of the main house. The east addition appears to have erased any evidence of an earlier structure. The portion of the east end that is a portion of a filled-in door can be seen. This could have been the earlier access to an earlier wing.

#### Interior:

Buckingham has had at least two interior renovations in this century and may well have had at least one during the Victorian era. Nevertheless a good deal of original fabric may still be seen. This description points out what may be seen at each level of the two oldest portions of the house ie. the central block and west wing. It is the conclusion of the report that they are close in age.

The house has a full basement that was lighted by partially sunken windows in the north and south walls. There is a bulkhead in the west end of the west addition.

In the area beneath the central block one can see the typical framing of a side hall and parlor with transverse joists beneath the parlors and shorter longitudinal joists supporting the hall. These joists obviously meet at right angles to the easternmost parlor joist and are joined to it by mortise-tenon-and-trunnel. In both sections of the basement the floor framing is a mixture of hewn and vertical machine sawn lumber. Some pieces appear hewn on one side and sawn on the other. Joists average  $9\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $2\frac{3}{4}$ ".

Against the west wall of the east wing one finds the chimney supports of the original interior end chimneys. They are central to each parlor above, project from the wall 23 inches and are 7 feet 1 inch wide. The supports have round arched openings 3 feet 1 inch wide, and 5 feet 2 inches high.

An extremely interesting chimney support can be seen at the west end of the west wing. Four round arches (none of them matching in size) support the single interior end chimney. These arches span the entire length of the west wall. The northernmost is 63 inches high and 43 inches wide. The next is only  $54\frac{1}{2}$  inches high and 27 inches wide. The next is 63 inches high again but is 52 inches wide and the south arch brings in two more dimensions being 59 inches high and 37 inches wide. The end arches meet the corners of the room with rather graceful spandrels.

On the first floor of the central block it is concluded that

the parlor mantels, window and door moulding (but not chair rails) and the front door itself are original. The wide dog-leg stairs with scrolled step ends, rectangular balusters and thin newel with wrap-around banister are appropriate but are indicated by the 1930's plans as replacements. The treaders of this somewhat formal stairs are 41 inches wide.

The hall itself is 9 feet wide and like the parlors the ceiling is 10 feet high. Although the parlors are connected each has its own hall entrance and there are exterior entrances at each end of the hall.

The parlors are connected by a double doorway that is 6 feet wide. The paneling of the windows, their mouldings and the fireplace mantels are indicated as existing in the 1930's plans and should be seen as original. The motif of a channel beneath the sill of the windows is repeated in the entablature of the fireplace mantels and is repeated in the architrave-like moulding of both wings.

The windows, as is common in stone houses, have tapered depths decorated with sunken panel reveals. The openings are 70 inches tall with 48 inches wide openings inside and 43 inches outside.

The mantels are identical but the openings of the brick fireplaces differ because of later infill. The mantels have a shelf that is 88 inches long and  $53\frac{1}{2}$  inches above the floor. The surround is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide with a centered 5 inch wide plain rectangular pilaster. A double bead moulding decorates the opening which is  $55\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide and  $42\frac{1}{2}$  inches high. The 11 inch entablature is decorated by a sunken panel or channel that is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches high.

The second floor of the main block has been altered in layout. Originally it more likely than not repeated the plan below with the possibility of a smaller third room at one end of the hall. Mouldings like those found below can be seen on this level as can double cross doors with early hardware.

The attic of the first section provides an additional two rooms that are characterized by tray ceilings and knee walls.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      1794 - 1830's      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

With so much of Baltimore County's historical resources having been lost in the wake of a tremendous surge of modern development it is surprising to find so much in the way of rural history surviving right on the city line along West Lake Avenue. One of these places in particular is Buckingham, a large Federal period house which once commanded a sizable tract of land.

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The second addition was made in the 1930's when a two story addition was added to the east end. A very well done Classical Revival renovation took place which was sensitive to existing fabric.

A great deal can be learned about Federal period architecture from studying Buckingham and the changes which have occurred in the building since say a great deal about the continued viability of neo-classical design in our domestic architecture.

BA-1721

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Baltimore County Land Records  
Baltimore County Will Records  
"Map of the City and County of Baltimore" J.C. Sidney, 1850 Robert Taylor, 1857  
The Sun, Baltimore, January 22, 1905. Page 8.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Attachment

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

WAYNE C. NIELD, II

ORGANIZATION

HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

- The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## CHAIN OF TITLE FOR BUCKINGHAM

For present owner see Plat Book 39, folio 106  
 David S. Thaler et al  
 Omega Land Corporation

The Chain of Title will begin when Charles A. Buchanan acquired the land:

<u>LIBER</u>	<u>FOLIO</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>
Tk 246	453	March 28, 1835	Josias Pennington & George C. Morton Trustees et al	Charles A. Buchanan

Part of the following 8 tracts:

Samuels Hope  
 Hopyard  
 Youngs Delight  
 Hectors Hopyard  
 Edwards and Wills Valleys and Hills  
 Morgans Delight  
 The Labyrinth  
 Benjamins Mill Lot Reserved

Containing 462½ acres

From the following two mortgages to the President and Directors of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Baltimore from Jesse Tyson

WG 154 660 October 27, 1819

WG 153 667 October 12, 1918

Jesse Tyson acquired the land from the following deeds:

1)WG 123 35 January 21, 1813 Ruth & Mary W. Bowen Jesse Tyson

Ruth Bowen is the widow of Nathan Bowen, Mary W. Bowen is his daughter

Being part of "Hopyard" containing 7 acres

Received by Nathan Bowen from Michael Young by indenture dated February 11, 1792

2)WG 122 460 March 17, 1813 Charles Ridgely of Hampton Jesse Tyson

Part of Hectors Hopyard containing 100 acres. Situate on Jones's Falls

Sold for \$4,500

Received by Charles Ridgely of Hampton from William Gwynn, trustee for Josias Bowen by deed dated January 22, 1812 and recorded in land record WG 116, folio 455.

Sold for \$4,250

3)WG 122 383 March 11, 1813 William Bowen Jesse Tyson

Part of "Samuels Hope" Containing 25 acres, 60 perches

Received by William Bowen from Nathan Bowen son of Solomon by deed dated November 6, 1810 and recorded in land record WG 110, folio 535

4)WG 120 711 November 19, 1812 Ruth & Charles Bowen Jesse Tyson

Part of Samuels Hope Containing 3 acres, 24 perches

5)WG 145 657 May 16, 1818 Mahlon Milnor Jesse Tyson

Part of "Edwards and Wills Vallies and Hills", "Morgans Delight", and "Labyrinth" Containing 127½ acres, 30 perches.

Received by Mahlon Milnor from William Stevenson by deed dated September 25, 1810 and recorded in land record WG 112, folio 295.

Received by William Stevenson from Zebin Hollingsworth by deed dated February 23, 1810 and recorded in land record WG 109, folio 78.

Received by Zebin Hollingsworth from Charles Carroll of Carrollton by deed dated December 21, 1802 and recorded in land record WG 74, folio 150.

## PHOTOGRAPH AND PAINTING

A photograph appearing with an article about Buckingham in the Baltimore Sun in 1905 is of a painting which is supposed to picture this building. More than one problem arises and they do not threaten the authenticity of either the photograph or the painting so much as they colour the interpretation of the site today.

The first discrepancy gives rise to the second insofar as in the photograph we see a two story side hall and two bay parlor house with its entrance on the left. There is a single story log or frame structure on the left end of the building which could be an earlier structure added on to during the Federal period (as is the case with more than one Maryland house) or it is a kitchen addition. At any rate, if one looks at Buckingham's present main facade, that is its south side facing Lake Avenue, one sees a tripartite two story structure completely made of stone. Structural analysis and documented evidence shows that the central block and west wing are the two oldest sections with the central block being the older of the two. Each of these two sections constitutes separate side hall and two bay parlor plans but when viewed from the South the entrances are on the opposite sides of the building than the one seen in the photograph. (The present door of the west wing is on the "left" but structural evidence and extant blueprints for the 1930's renovation show the original to be in the east bay or "right" like the main block). Furthermore, structural analysis shows the early, but nevertheless added, west wing to be absent of its own east end wall and so we can't see it as an independent structure. It is the central block with its entrance hall on the east end or side that is the focus of attention. Why is it reversed in plan from the building seen in the photograph? Again authenticity may not be the chief question so much as how we interpret the building today.

One explanation is that the negative for the photograph of the painting was reversed in printing.

Another explanation for the reversed image in the newspaper photograph is that the painting is a view of the north side of the house and that the main facade of the 20th century was not the main facade of the 19th century. In this case the single story wing would still be on the east end or "left" side of the picture. Undocumented neighborhood tradition suggesting that Lake Avenue once ran further South than its present alignment plus the far superior view of the valley directly to the North suggest the possibility that this house once faced North instead of South. Precedent in the tidewater area, the symmetry of this period, the absence of immediate outbuildings and a lack of knowledge concerning pre-1850's road alignments makes reversed main facade a realistic explanation of the problematic photograph.

Either explanation places the single story kitchen wing on the east end of the main block where the 1930's stone addition

now stands. A filled in doorway on this end may relate to an earlier wing, however, evidence of a previous wrap around porch on the central block in the crawlspace below the addition suggests that the earlier single story wing may not have survived into the 20th century. If it did the 1930's addition certainly destroyed all evidence of it.

Locating and dating the painting is a quite important task yet to be done as other questions are still unanswered. For instance, if the painting is Buckingham and the painting is post-1850 then why does it not show the west wing? We may be dating the addition too early or if it were a 1820's painting then we could be more precise in our dating.

A closer examination of the painting might also answer these problems with proof of the very real possibility that there was another Tyson family home in this neighborhood with a similar appearance to Buckingham.

"Buckingham"

Article from The Sun, Baltimore, January 22, 1905. Page 8.

Concerning the Tyson family history.  
Including Elisha and Mary Tyson whose children were:

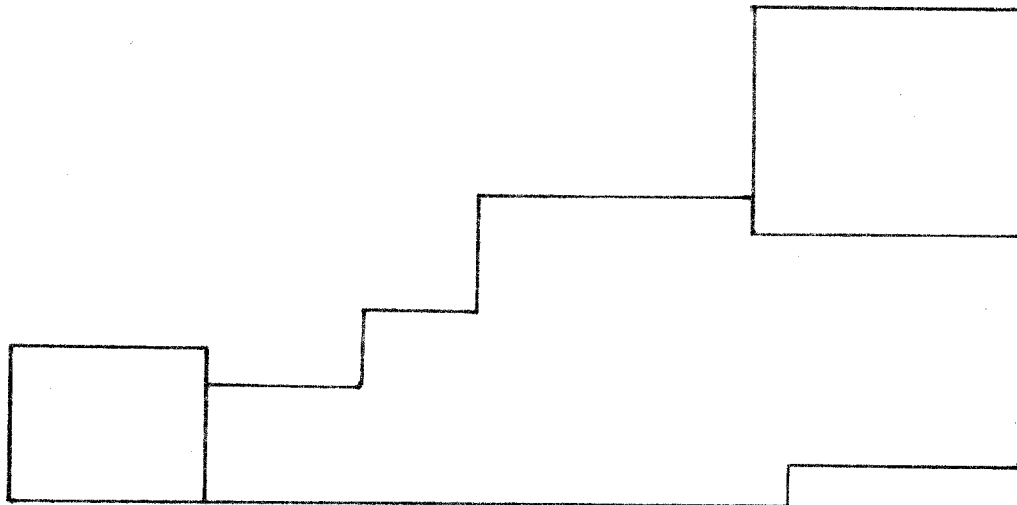
Isaac, who married Elizabeth Thomas  
Esther, who died during childhood  
Lucretta, wife of John Wilson  
William, who married Elizabeth Ellicott  
James, Sarah, and Sarah who died in childhood  
Elisha, who married Sarah Morris  
Deborah

Referring to the picture accompanying the article:

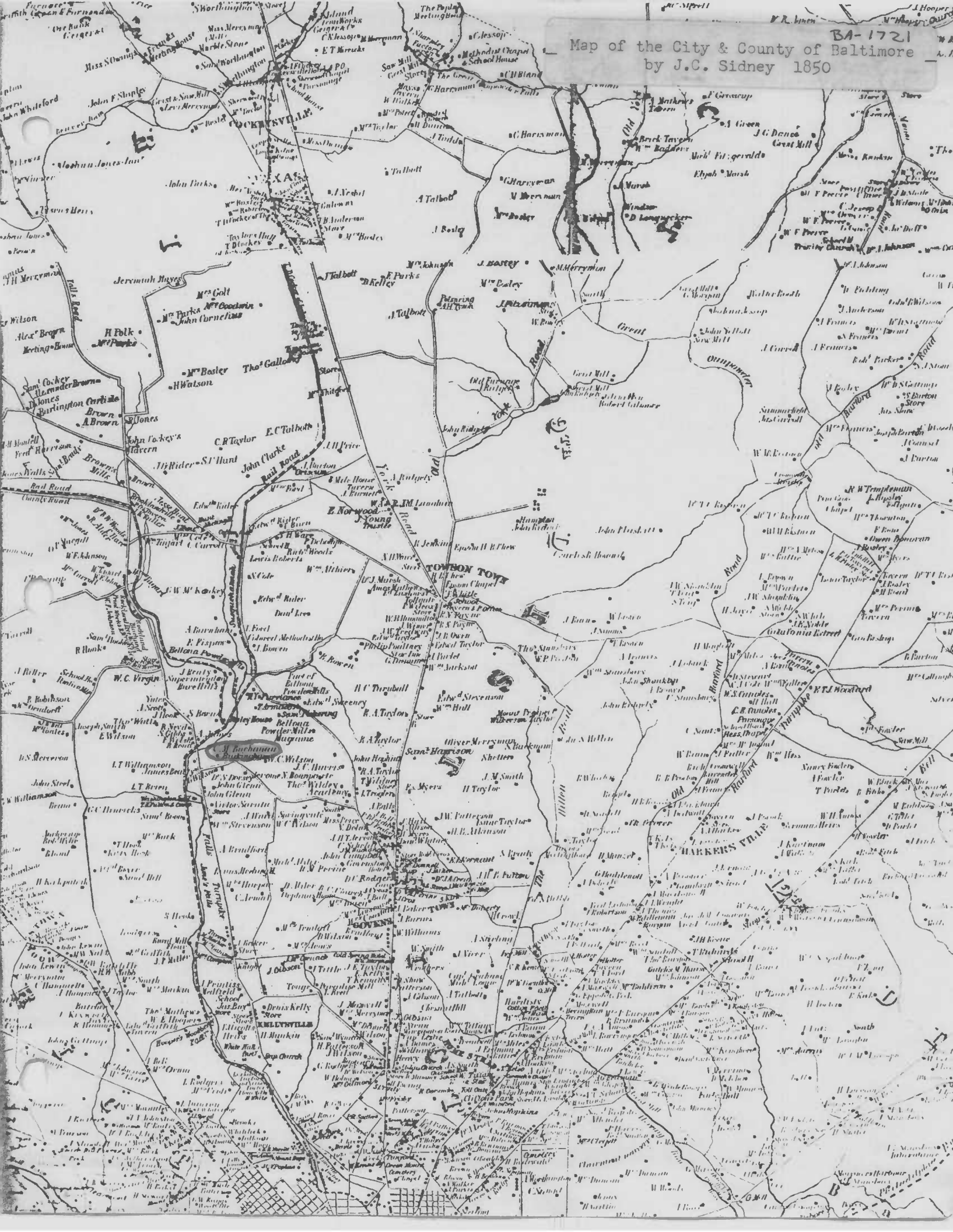
"The old house, a picture of which appears with this article, was built on the Falls Road by Elisha Tyson, Sr., for his daughter, Lucretta Tyson, who married John Wilson, and both of whom, together with one of their children, died almost at the same time of yellow fever. During the War of 1812, when Baltimore was threatened by the British, the treasures of the banks of Baltimore were removed to this old house and guarded there until all danger of invasion was past. The house is still standing in part and now belongs to the Mankin estate."

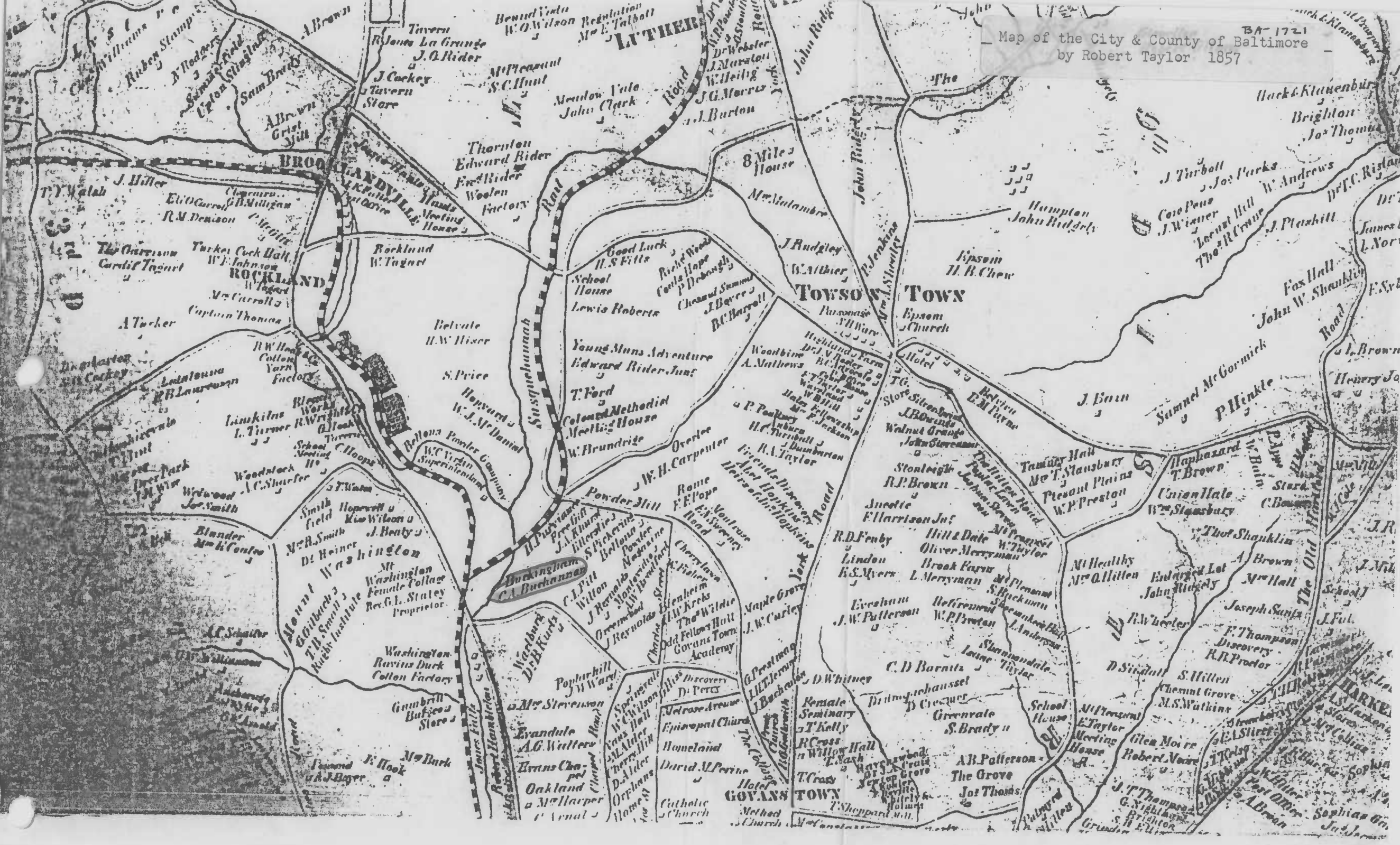
BA 1721

BUCKINGHAM  
FLOOR PLAN

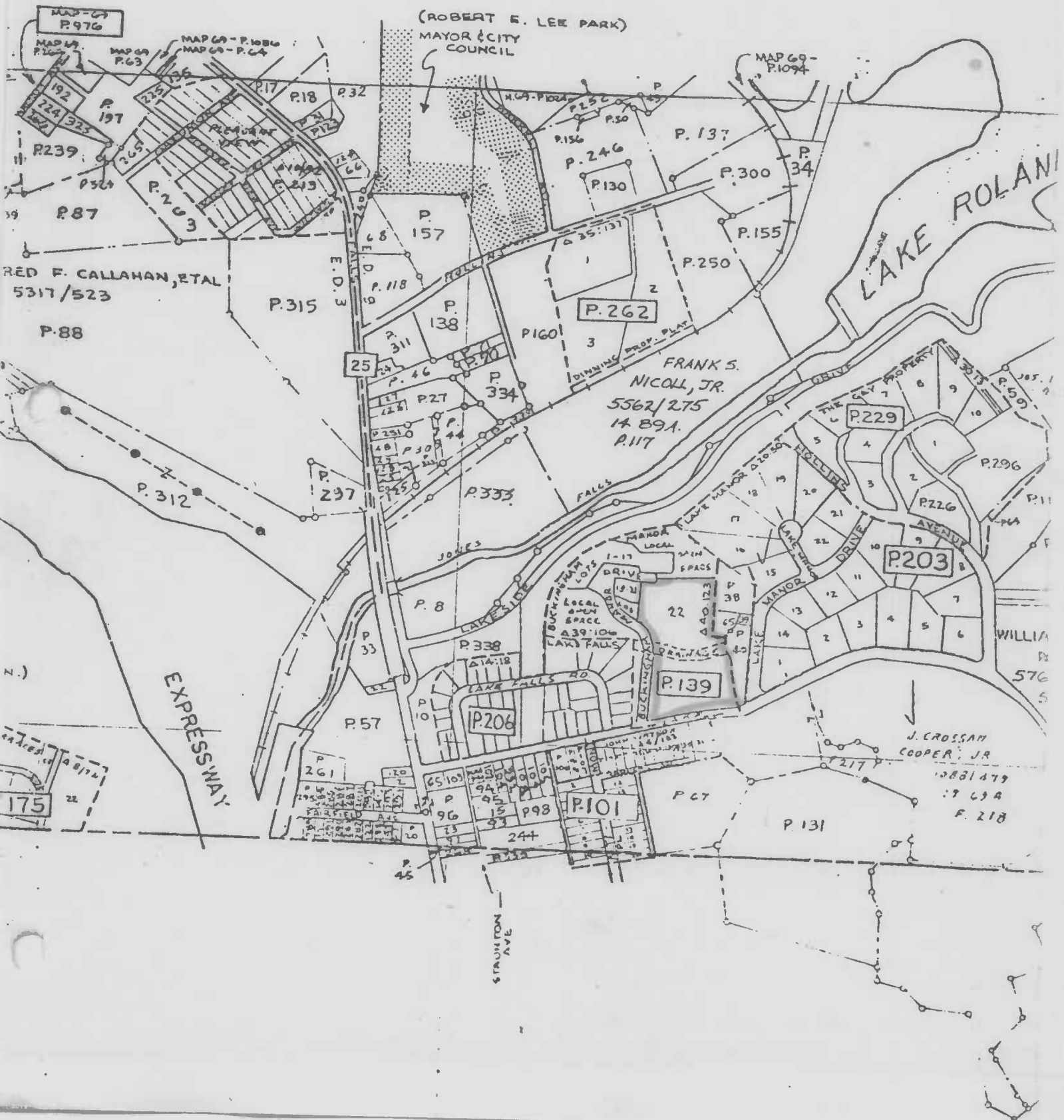


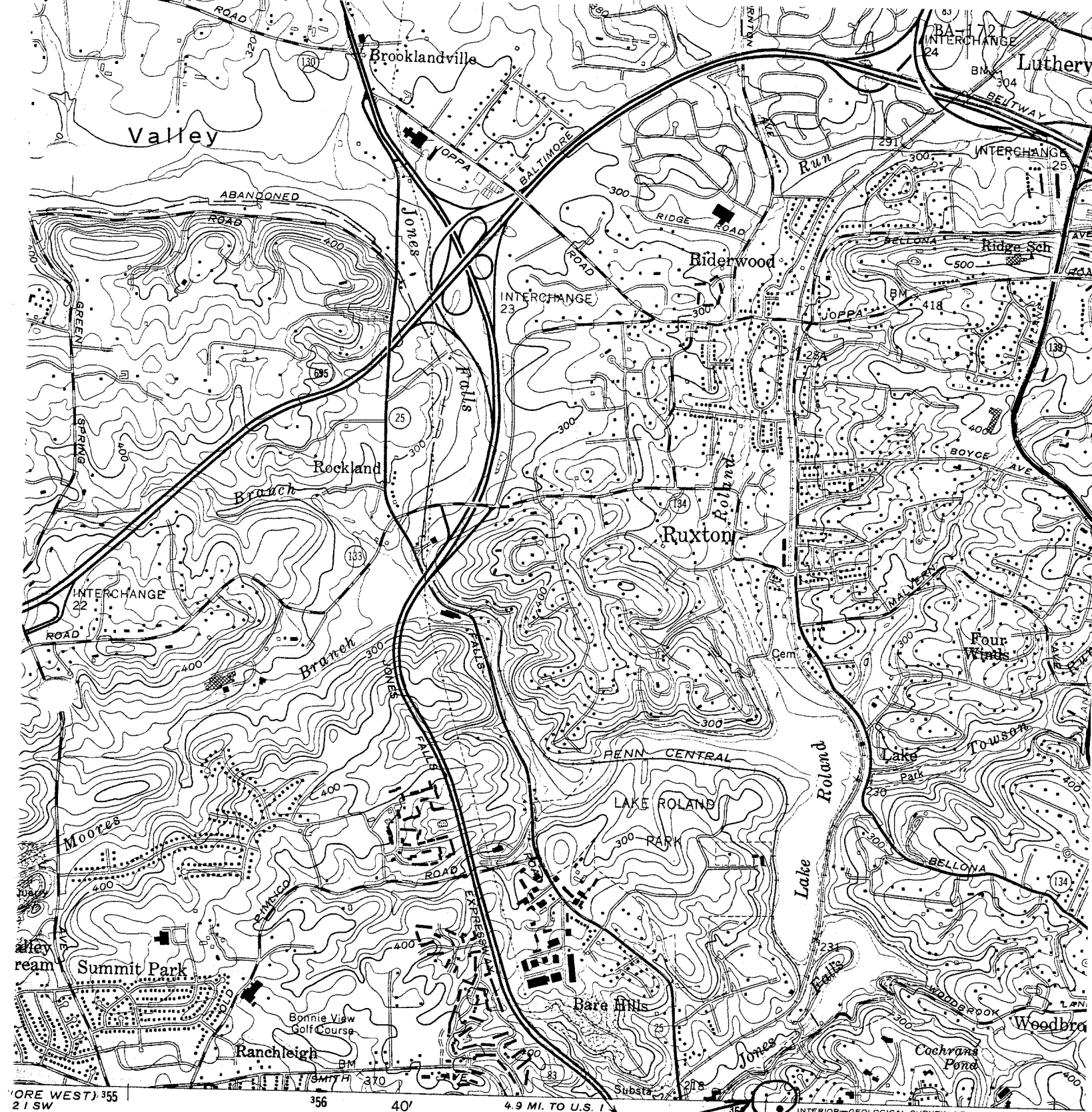
Map of the City & County of Baltimore  
by J.C. Sidney 1850



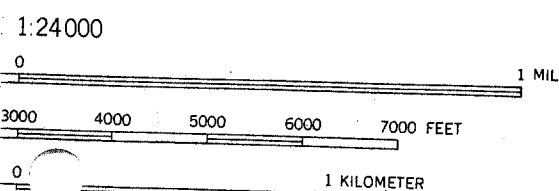








(MORE WEST) 355  
21 SW

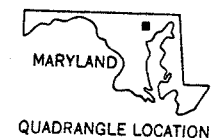


VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

**BA-1721**

**Buckingham**  
(David Thaler House)

Cockeysville Quad, 1957, PR 1966 & 1974



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty —————
- Medium-duty —————
- Light-duty —————
- Unimproved dirt ————
- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route

**COCKEYSVILLE**

NW/4 BALTIMORE 15' QUA  
N3922.5—W7637.5

1957  
& 1974

PHOTOREVISED 1966 AND

ATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological  
Survey from aerial photography



BA- 1721

BUCKINGHAM  
S. FACADE

J. CORCORAN  
7/79



BA-1721

BUCKINGHAM  
S. FACADE

J. CORCORAN

7/79



BA-1721

BUCKINGHAM  
N. FACADE

J. CORCORAN  
7/79



BA - 1721

BUCKINGHAM

N. FACADE

J. CORCORAN

7/79



BA- 1721

BUCKINGHAM  
S. FACADE

J. CORCORAN  
7/79



BA- 1721-A

SPRING HOUSE -

BUCKINGHAM

S.W. CORNER

J. CORCORAN

7/79